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The avifauna of Sulawesi, Indonesia: faunistic notes and additions

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The Indonesian island of Sulawesi (Celebes) has an avifauna of c. 328 species including c. 74 endemics. The high number of endemics is a result of Sulawesi's long isolation and unique position along Wallace's line separating the Sunda and Sahul faunas. It is therefore not surprising that early workers often concentrated on its resident and forest birds. It appears that several quite common migratory birds have been overlooked in the past.

Few of the following species that we have added to the avifauna in the past 3 years are likely to be genuine new arrivals on the island. Over half these additional species are regular or at least occasional winter visitors to Australia that might reasonably be expected to occur on passage in Sulawesi and Wallacea generally (White 1975, 1976, 1977). One of the species reached Sulawesi as a result of an irruption, and 2 may have been introduced by Man. Probably only 3 are natural additions to the resident avifauna: *Ibis cinereus*, *Apus affinis* and *Cypsiurus balasiensis*.

The second part of this paper updates the range of several resident species that were known to Stresemann (1939-41) only from restricted parts of the island.

A number of records have been taken from the field notes of Dr. J. MacKinnon (J.M.) who was stationed in North Sulawesi with the Directorate of Nature Conservation of the Government of Indonesia. The authors are very grateful for Dr. MacKinnon's contribution and his assistance in reading a first draft of this report.

Pelecanus conspicillatus

The irruption of Australian Pelicans into Indonesia during the southern winter of 1978 has already been reported (Somardikarta & Holmes 1979). The main concentrations reported in Sulawesi consisted of 50 or more birds between Polewali (119° 20' E, 3° 25' S) and Majene and of over 100 in the Luwuk area (123° E, 1° S). DAH saw 4 near Palu (119° 50' E, 0° 50' S) in September and one on the Lariang (119° 20' E, 1° 25' S) in October, all of these being remnants of the flocks of 10-15 birds that had arrived 3 months previously. One was reported from Tanjong Panjang (121° 50' E, 0° 30' N) in North Sulawesi as late as 15 December 1978 (JM).

Ibis cinereus

Five Milky Storks near Maros, just north of Ujung Pandang (119° 30' E, 5° 10' S) on 10 June 1977 (CJE) were the first to be reported in Sulawesi.

Subsequently parties of 1-8 were seen on several occasions near Polewali, Ujung Pandang and Jenepono ($119^{\circ} 45' \text{ E}$, $5^{\circ} 40' \text{ S}$) in March and September 1978 and January 1979 (CJE, DAH). In S.E. Sulawesi they have been reported at Kolumbi in Roraya district ($c. 112^{\circ} \text{ E}$, 4° S) on 6 August 1978 (Pranowo, pers. comm.), and in N. Sulawesi a party of c.15 birds was seen at Tanjong Panjang on 5-10 December 1978 (JM). Hitherto the Milky Stork was known in Indonesia only from Java and Sumatra and the origin of the small but apparently resident population in Sulawesi is not known.

Porzana paykullii

A single Band-bellied Crake was seen near Ujung Pandang on 7 April 1979 (CJE). Identification was confirmed at c.10 m by the chestnut forehead, brown crown and nape, red legs and greenish-grey bill. It was considerably larger than a *P. fusca* seen shortly afterwards; the red legs distinguish it from *Rallina eurizonoides* and the combination of chestnut forehead sharply demarcated from the brown crown and nape from *R. fasciata*.

The known wintering range of this crake includes the Malayan peninsula, Sumatra, Java and Borneo, as well as one record from Basilan Island in the southern Philippines (Delacour & Mayr 1946), so the present record represents only a slight extension of range.

Pluvialis squatarola

First recorded at Sigeri ($119^{\circ} 35' \text{ E}$, $4^{\circ} 40' \text{ S}$) on 23 February 1977, the Grey Plover has subsequently been seen elsewhere along the west coast of South Sulawesi on several occasions between 13 January and 1 April (CJE) and 2 were seen at Palu on 24 September 1978 (DAH). It appears to be a regular winter visitor.

Limosa limosa

A flock of c.60 Black-tailed Godwits was seen near Ujung Pandang on 11 March 1978 (CJE). It is probably a rare visitor to Sulawesi.

Tringa stagnatilis

First sighted near Sigeri on 18 September 1976, the Marsh Sandpiper has since been found to be very common along the west coast of South Sulawesi between 18 September and 1 April (CJE). Several were also seen at Palu on 24 September 1978 (DAH).

Calidris canutus

A flock of 25 Red Knots was seen near Sigeri on 23 February 1977 (CJE). Identification was assisted by some rufous mottling on the underparts.

Calidris tenuirostris

13 Great Knots were seen near Ujung Pandang on 13 November 1977 (CJE) and another 3 were present at the mouth of the Morowali River in Central Sulawesi ($121^{\circ} 35' \text{ E}$, $1^{\circ} 55' \text{ S}$) on 23 January 1979 (DAH).

Calidris ferruginea

One Curlew Sandpiper was seen near Ujung Pandang on 12 September 1976 and since then they have been seen regularly along the west coast of South Sulawesi up to 22 March, occasionally in flocks of up to 200 (CJE). One was seen at Palu on 24 September 1978 (DAH).

Crocethia alba

The first Sanderling record was of 2 on the beach near Ujung Pandang on 4 September 1976, and in subsequent years parties of up to 10 were seen

there regularly until 1 April (CJE). Larger numbers were present at Palu on 18 October 1978 (DAH).

Philomachus pugnax

One Ruff, believed to be male, was present near Ujung Pandang on 3 December 1978 and again on 16 February 1979, and 12 were seen near Polewali on 16 March 1979 (CJE). The diagnostic white oval patches on the sides of the upper tail coverts were seen clearly.

Gelochelidon nilotica

Two Gull-billed Terns were seen on 1 February 1978 near Jeneponto (CJE) and subsequently small numbers were seen occasionally at several locations between Ujung Pandang and Bulukumba (120° 20' E, 5° 30' S) from 22 October until 28 April (CJE, DAH).

Streptopelia tranquebarica

On his first arrival in Palu on 18 September 1978 DAH heard the familiar call of the Red Turtle Dove, and he later confirmed this record by sightings. It was found to be a common and presumably resident bird in the Palu valley and was also heard on the opposite coast at Torue (120° 20' E, 1° 00' S). This species could have arrived unaided from its nearest known range in Luzon and Mindoro in the Philippines but it is more likely to have been introduced, and the lack of records from North Sulawesi (JM, CJE) would support this.

Hirundapus caudacutus

A party of probable White-throated Needletails was seen at Poso airport (120° 40' E, 1° 25' S) on 17 October 1978 (DAH). A second group of c.10 was seen flying southeast near Bulukumba on 22 October 1978 (CJE, DAH) and a single bird was seen near Malino (east of Ujung Pandang) on 1 April 1979 (CJE).

The white throat and vent were clearly seen, particularly in the second group, and this would appear to confirm the identification (King *et al.* 1975), but Mees (1973) shows that some specimens of *H. cochinchinensis* from Java are pale with distinctly white throats, so that identification from sight records may not be conclusive. However, whereas *H. cochinchinensis* is a winter visitor south to Malaya, Java and Sumatra only, *H. caudacutus* is a passage migrant through S.E. Asia to Australia and has been recorded from Borneo (Smythies 1960), and in the Lesser Sunda Islands (White 1976). Furthermore, Stresemann (1939-41) considered that this species probably occurred over Sulawesi as a passage migrant.

Apus pacificus

Several Fork-tailed Swifts were seen near Takalar, south of Ujung Pandang, on 21 October 1978 (CJE, DAH) and identified from flight silhouette by DAH who knows this species from elsewhere in S.E. Asia. It has also been reported from Tangkoko Batu Angus in N. Sulawesi (125° 20' E, 1° 35' N) at the end of August or early September 1977 (JM).

Stresemann included this migrant species in his nominal list (1936), possibly on the basis of the specimen listed by White (1976) from the Sangir Islands, but omitted it from his general work on mainland birds (1939-41). White also reported specimens from Flores and Halmahera.

Apus affinis

The House Swift is resident in Ujung Pandang in moderate numbers and a nest site was visited on 22 October 1978 (CJE, DAH) under second storey eaves in a busy central shopping street. Another population was found in a town 40 km north of Sigeri.

The known range of this Afro-Asian species extends as far as the northern Philippines and Greater Sundas, and the colonization of Ujung Pandang is probably part of a continuing range expansion and population explosion that has occurred since the species adopted man-made structures as nesting sites (Medway & Wells 1976). It may not be new to Ujung Pandang as White (1976) quotes 2 swifts seen on 1 September by Maurenbrechter (1948) which were assumed to be this species, although the identification was doubted by Coomans de Ruiter (1948).

Cypsiurus balasiensis

The Palm Swift was first positively identified by sight on 21 October 1978 (DAH) at several places between Ujung Pandang and Balukumba, in open country usually near Fan-leaf Palms *Borrassus flabellifera*, known locally as "pohon lontar". Identification was confirmed on 23 May 1979 when CJE found 2 nests, and possibly more, in a grove of these palms 2 km south of Jenepono. The nests were 2 m and 4 m above the ground, lodged in the curled undersides of palm fronds, and one contained one or probably 2 fledgelings; the second was empty.

The Palm Swift occurs widely in the Greater Sundas and Philippines but this appears to be the first record from Wallacea.

Pycnonotus goiavier

Small groups of Yellow-vented Bulbuls are often seen in and around Ujung Pandang (first recorded 29 May 1977, (CJE) and, like *P. aurigaster*, have presumably originated from introduced stock.

Turdus obscurus

A flock of c.15 Eye-browed Thrushes was reported from Tangkoko Batu Angus in the far north of Sulawesi on 8 April 1978 (JM). This record is a slight extension of its known wintering range in the Philippines and Greater Sundas.

In addition to the above species there are several unconfirmed sight records of the following which would also be additions to the avifauna of Sulawesi:

Charadrius alexandrinus: one, Ujung Pandang, 4 September 1976 (CJE); one, Palu, 24 September 1978 (DAH).

Gallinago stenura: several, Ujung Pandang, 7 April 1979 (CJE).

Calidris alpina: one, Ujung Pandang, 18 September 1976 (CJE); several, Palu, 18 October 1978 (DAH).

Glaucola maldivarum: small flocks, Pangkajene (north of Ujung Pandang), 16 November 1977, and Jenepono, 10 October 1978 (CJE).

Delichon dasypus: one, Palu, 11 October 1978 (DAH).

The following mainly resident species show an extension of their previously known range as recorded by Stresemann (1939-41); Stresemann's

described range is shown in brackets against each species, but his terms are geographical and do not match Sulawesi's 4 administrative provinces:

Phalacrocorax sulcirostris: (North, 2 records). The Little Black Cormorant is quite common near Bulukumba in South Sulawesi, first recorded there on 10 April 1978 (CJE).

Phalacrocorax melanoleucos: (North). The Little Pied Cormorant is common near Bulukumba (first record 10 April 1978) and Polewali in South Sulawesi (CJE) and a single bird was seen near Palu in Central Sulawesi in September 1978 (DAH).

Egretta sacra: (North, and island of Muna) Small numbers of Reef Egrets have been seen at several localities in Central and South Sulawesi (CJE, DAH, and J. West).

Egretta alba: (North, and island of Muna). The Great Egret has also been seen at several localities in Central and South Sulawesi (CJE, DAH).

Ciconia episcopus: (North, Central, South-east, and island of Muna). The White-necked Stork is seen regularly in South Sulawesi (CJE).

Ichthyophaga nana: (north-Central, South). The Lesser Fishing Eagle is present at Dumoga ($124^{\circ} 0' \text{ E}$, $0^{\circ} 40' \text{ N}$) in North Sulawesi (JM).

Butastur liventer: (Central, South). The Rufous-winged Buzzard also is present at Dumoga in North Sulawesi (JM).

Gallinula chloropus: (Central, South). The Common Moorhen has been reported from several areas throughout North Sulawesi (JM).

Esacus magnirostris: (small off-shore islands). Stresemann (1936) listed the Reef Thick-knee as resident on small coastal islands, and omitted it from his general work on mainland birds (1939-41). It has now been seen on mainland beaches near Ujung Pandang in south Sulawesi (CJE) and west of Gorontalo ($123^{\circ} 10' \text{ E}$, $0^{\circ} 50' \text{ N}$) in North Sulawesi (JM).

Geopelia striata: (south-Central, South). The introduced Peaceful Dove has been recorded at Gorontalo in North Sulawesi (JM).

Tanygnathus megalorhynchus: (small off-shore islands). The Great-billed Parrot was also listed by Stresemann (1936) but omitted from his main work (1939-41). CJE saw one bird at Mahavu Crater near Menado ($124^{\circ} 45' \text{ E}$, $1^{\circ} 30' \text{ N}$) in North Sulawesi, and a small flock near Amurang, west of Menado, both in late June 1979.

Cacomantis merulinus: (Central, South, South-east). The Plaintive Cuckoo has been seen at Tangkoko Batu Angus in North Sulawesi (JM).

Collalalia vanikorensis: (Central, South, South-east). Large numbers of Uniform Swiftlets were seen flying over Menado in North Sulawesi early on 26 June 1979 (CJE).

Halcyon sancta: (South). The Sacred Kingfisher, a migrant, has been recorded at Palu in Central Sulawesi in September 1978 (DAH) and at Tangkoko Batu Angus in North Sulawesi (JM).

Merops ornatus: (South). The migratory Rainbow Bee-eater has also been seen at Tangkoko Batu Angus as well as other sites in North Sulawesi (JM).

Lalage sneurii: (southern part of South). Sueur's Triller is now common in and around Palu town (DAH, and R. Watling) and probably in other locations in Central Sulawesi. It appears to be extending its range northwards, possibly in competition with *L. (nigra) leucopygialis*, but it has so far not been recorded in North Sulawesi (JM).

Cisticola juncidis: (Central, South). The Zitting Cisticola has been seen west of Gorontalo in North Sulawesi (JM).

Rhipidura teijsmanni: (western North, Central, South, South-east). The record from Ambang (124° 25' E, 0° 45' N) in North Sulawesi (JM) confirms that the endemic Celebes Fantail occurs in all parts of Sulawesi.

Anthus novaeseelandiae: (South). Richard's Pipit is reportedly widespread in North Sulawesi (JM).

Passer montanus: (Ujung Pandang in South). The spread of the introduced Tree Sparrow around Sulawesi is to be expected and it is now known from Menado in North Sulawesi (CJE) and Donggala, the port of Palu, in Central Sulawesi (DAH).

Lonchura punctulata: (Central, South). The Spotted Munia is reported to be widespread in North Sulawesi (JM).

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Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis* new to Mexico

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One of us (J.S.A.) found an entire, recently dead, shearwater, on the tide-line at Tulum (20° 13' N, 87° 28' W), on the east coast of Yucatan, Mexico, on 25 July 1978. As it was thought to be a Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*, a species previously unrecorded from Mexico, its head and a wing and leg were sent to the Smithsonian Institution. Examination by G.E.W. confirmed its identification on the basis of underwing pattern, bill size and colour, and the foot's proportions and colour.